

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

**Martin Allotment Grazing
Transfer & RI Projects**

Environmental Assessment (EA)
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0183-EA

For Further Information Please Contact:

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BLM



LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Prairie County

T. 11 N., R. 50 E., Sections 24 (Lot 4)

T. 11 N., R. 51 E., Sections 17 (all) and 20 (W1/2)

PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is to issue grazing permit for the Martin Allotment (#01337) to the applicants who have provided a legal lease agreement for the base property for a five year period. Two projects would be authorized to help address concerns with downward trend in the upland conditions which would move the allotment towards meeting Standards for Rangeland Health. This would include fencing the crested wheatgrass flat away from the native range and the construction of a pipeline off of Martin Well #413158. The term of the permit for the Martin Allotment will run from March 1, 2013 through March 1, 2018. The allotment would be divided into three pastures and livestock use will be outlined in the terms and conditions for the Martin Allotment. Under the proposed action the terms and conditions will be issued as outlined below.

GR# 2502839

Allotment Name and Number Martin Allot. #01337	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Type Use	AUMs
	Number	Kind	Begin	End			
River Pasture	3	C	03/01	02/28	100	Custodial	35
Crested Pasture	55	C	06/01	08/16	72	Active	100
Breaks Pasture	55	C	08/17	10/14	100	Active	107

Total Active AUMs: 242

Terms and Conditions:

Line 1: Grazing is authorized during the listed season for the recognized capacity of the public land. Livestock will not be on the public land continuously for the entire season. Livestock numbers are not restricted. Feeding of hay should not be within ¼ mile of the public land. No additional grazing credit will be allowed for the feeding of hay on the private land.

Line 2: Grazing is restricted to spring time use in the crested wheatgrass flats. Livestock numbers may vary with approval and recalculation on the grazing period by the authorized officer.

Line 3: Grazing is on a set season and numbers. Livestock numbers may vary with approval and recalculation on the grazing period by the authorized officer.

The water would be turned on in the North end of the allotment from August 16th through September 13th and the trough on the south end of the Breaks Pasture would have water from September 13th through October 14th during even years. The North trough would be turned off on September 13th.

The water would be turned on in the South end of the allotment from August 16th through September 13th and the trough on the north end of the Breaks Pasture would have water from September 13th through October 14th during odd years. Water on the south end would be turned off on September 13th.

Supplemental feed will not be placed within one quarter of a mile of stock watering facilities, riparian zones, hardwood draws or wetlands. Grazing is authorized during the listed season for the recognized capacity of the public land. Livestock will not be on the public land continuously for the entire season and livestock numbers are not restricted.

The term of the permit will run from March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2018 which coincides with the dates of the base property lease. Provided that current monitoring information indicates that range conditions are in conformance with 43 CFR 4180, the permit may be renewed upon renewal of the base property lease through February 28, 2023.

Range Improvements: The Martin Well #413158 would supply water to the proposed Martin Pipeline. The pipeline would run northwest into the NWNW of section 17 and cross 640 feet of public land. The other line would run into the SENW quadrant in 20 (T. 11 N., R. 51 E). The pipeline would be designed and contracted by the BLM. The pipeline would be approximately 2,500 feet of public land. The pipeline would "T" off of the previously install line and run into the NW quadrant in section 17. The pipeline will be approximately 3,000 feet and located on public land. The BLM would design, contract and inspect the pipeline at a location shown on the attached map. The pipeline is approximately 3,000 feet in length and will be constructed with 1 ½ inch HDPE SDR 13.5 pipe. The pipeline would be plowed (ripped) in at the depth of 3 to 5 feet. Contractor may pre-rip the line, and then come back

one final time, to lay the pipe in the trench. After pipe is set in the ground, the contractor will then dig holes with the backhoe, to assemble curb stop valves, hydrants assemblies, air relief valves and stop valves. If the equipment cannot pull through these areas the contractor will come back with the backhoe and break through these areas to achieve proper bury depth. At these areas disturbance will be 15 feet wide. Total disturbance along pipeline route will be approximately 4 feet wide except at points where apertures are installed. The tanks will be installed by the permittee and will be equipped with a float valve. No overflow assembly will be required. Once the tank on the pipeline extension is in place, water availability would be used to control livestock movement. Water would be turned on as outlined in the terms and conditions of the grazing permit. The permittee will be assigned maintenance on the pipeline after it has been completed.

The fence would be a standard three wire fence with spacing of 16" - 26" and 38" from the ground level. The top two wires would be barbed and the bottom would be smooth. No blade work would be authorized in the construction of this fence. Total length of fence would be 12,000 feet. BLM would furnish materials and the permittee would labor to construct the fence. Upon the fence completion the permittee would assume maintenance responsibility.